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COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Difficulties of Anti-Communist Partisans

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1. The Bulgarian Communist authorities are having a good deal of success in trapping anti-Communist partisans by means of agents provocateurs. Wherever anti-Communist partisans are known to be operating, the authorities send in false groups of loyal Communists, posing as partisans. The local population fall into this trap in their efforts to assist genuine partisans.
2. One great problem of partisan bands hiding out in the mountains and raiding at intervals, after the Haiduk tradition, is food. In Turkish days this was easy enough, for the whole Christian population had plenty of food and could supply Haiduks and komitadjis easily. Today, though Bulgaria is a food producing country, few Bulgarian citizens have any to spare, their own situation being precarious.
3. There are other reasons why such anti-Communist bands as exist are having a hard time. Control over movement of the population is so strict that one hardly dares give a partisan shelter. Once it was easy for a band of komitadjis to find shelter almost anywhere. Wounded komitadjis could even be smuggled into hospitals. The course of world affairs has further operated to discourage resistance elements from undertaking any active operations. At present, Bulgarian resistance bands merely keep an eye on the roads, though often without attacking. They also try to make trouble for Communist machinery and industry.

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